



(U) OUTPARKS: A New Internet for NSA

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(U//FOUO) For years, NSA had a variety of means for accessing the Internet. Over time, those connections and pseudo-networks deteriorated and were overcome by a growing user base that increasingly demanded more and better Internet utility. Following the events of 11 September 2001, the need for greater Internet access and a vital, robust unclassified infrastructure became dear. The exponential growth of [AIRGAP](#) throughout the Agency and the need for more information and a refined collaborative atmosphere across government accelerated the demand to consolidate NSA's unclassified systems.

(U//FOUO) Using [SIGINT Directorate Internet access requirements](#) as a foundation, the modernization of our unclassified environment - OUTPARKS - began almost as soon as Eagle Alliance came onboard. It was a huge task. Years of legacy systems, patched connections, redundant routers and servers, outdated equipment, old software and scores of other issues had to be removed or resolved and new, streamlined procedures and modern equipment installed.

(U//FOUO) Machines currently resident on older systems will automatically connect to OUTPARKS. As a result, users won't have to be concerned about having a BRAZEN or NIPRNet or OSIS or AIRGAP machine. Rather, there will be an Internet terminal from which one will connect to the World Wide Web and still be able to access data or connections particular to those systems. Except for AIRGAP, there will be no need to logon to different services individually and users will have their choice of "user-friendly" email accounts.

(U//FOUO) The first integration is expected by Summer 2004 when some BRAZEN users will be moved to the new network. With that initial transfer, OUTPARKS will begin to provide the NSA unclassified user population with an expanded, more secure, state-of-the-art network.

(U//FOUO) Ideas are already being discussed for using OUTPARKS to deliver the Internet with as little desktop clutter possible. This includes the display of Internet and classified data on a single desktop monitor. We also want to extend the Internet to the widest audience possible, including the Extended Enterprise. Field connectivity to OUTPARKS (or OUTPARKS technology) would allow those remote users the same state-of-the-art functionality, security and accesses available at NSA.

(U//FOUO) In addition to modernized connectivity, SID intends to enhance Internet user skills. Efforts such as [Robyn Winder's](#) annual volume "[Untangling the Web: An Introduction To Internet Research](#)" and her monthly "[The WorthWhile Web](#)" are excellent resources for learning about the intricacies of navigating the Internet effectively and safely. In addition to these publications and other Internet Research assistance, we will be looking for ways to make the SID population more Internet savvy.

(U//FOUO) OUTPARKS is a major step in [modernizing](#) and [transforming](#) NSA. With faster, more advanced, managed and protected access to the Internet and a more knowledgeable workforce, the entire SIGINT Enterprise will be able to effectively integrate the huge information resource that is the Internet into the intelligence process.

(U//FOUO) For more information, see: [SID Internet Program](#) and [SIGINT Success Stories](#).

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